



**Borough of Thetford**



**Annual Report**  
of the  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
together with the  
**Report of the**  
**Public Health Inspector**  
For the Year  
**1969**



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## STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

**A. Afnan, MD, DLO, DPH, LAH**

Public Health Inspector:

**R. C. R. Robinson, MAPHI, ARSH**



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Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my annual report on the health service of the district for the year 1969.

The Registrar General's mid-year estimate of population is 11,640.

There were 257 live births, the adjusted birth rate is 16.4.

During the year there were 115 deaths, the adjusted death rate is 12.0. The deaths were mostly attributed to diseases of the heart, blood vessels and malignant neoplasms.

### Accidents

Fatal accidents on the road are steadily moving up the list to become one of the top ten causes of death. In 1967, for example, deaths due to motor accidents were at 7,120—only 400 fewer than those attributed to "hypertension with heart disease".

Written down, added up, analysed and published, the figures are horrifically bland: 100,000 fatalities in Europe each year, two thirds this number again for the USA, 15,000 for Japan. The cure for this disease, as for every other, lies on the other side of an unpredictably long and costly research effort. Indeed, in terms of cost it will almost certainly exceed any programme ever mounted to eliminate a cause of death. The pathology of the road accident a complexity of physiological, psychological and social disorders, will take a long time to fully understand, even though some of the best brains in the world are steadily being put to work in some of the best equipped laboratories, to solve it. Like the plague, it is burning its way through the population with "cure" only a remote prospect, and there are no signs yet that gradual control—such as that exercised over tuberculosis for instance—lies in the hands of any healer. But a cure there must be for this man-made disease. The World Health Organisation, in a recent document which passes fairly efficiently over statistics, concludes with a strong recommendation for more and more research. The W.H.O.'s regional Committee for Europe at their Budapest conference described road traffic accidents as "a public health problem", which will be cut only through intensive research at Government, Industrial, University and Hospital level.

Four years ago the Scientific Research Council awarded a grant to the Department of Transportation and Environmental Planning at the University of Birmingham to examine the possibilities of "Systematic investigation of traffic collisions". It sounds more academic than it turned out to be, for Birmingham's has been one of the most fruitful projects ever handled by a University Department. Its report is a dedicated piece of scientific teamwork, which involved on-the-spot studies and the operation of a night and day rota of researches in constant communication with police and ambulance services. Costs were relatively low, the information output very high.

Its implications bear on highway engineering, car and component design, driver education and medicine. Like most reports it looks ahead to the next study.

### Pollution

The danger to health from atmospheric pollution is mainly in the incidence of respiratory disease, principally bronchitis. The extreme case in this country was the London smog of 5–8 December, 1952, to which was attributed the deaths of 4,000 persons in 3 weeks, and a further 8,000 in the next 3 months. This tragedy led to the appointment of the Beaver Committee in 1953 and the Clean Air Act, 1956. There had been previous smog incidents in 1873, 1880, 1891 and 1948, and others in 1956 and 1962, but extreme cases—when life is at hazard and public opinion is aroused to the point of demanding action are fortunately rare. With less lethal concentrations of pollutants



people who suffer from respiratory diseases are affected so that they have to stay away from work—according to a 1956 Office of Health Economics Report, 76 million days were lost in a year due to respiratory diseases and of these some 40 million were attributed to bronchitis.

Until recently low sulphur fuels were in short supply and relatively expensive and their compulsory use could hardly be justified economically. This position changed with the discovery of natural gas in the North Sea in quantities estimated to provide approximately 15 per cent of the country's total energy supplies by 1975. We are fortunate that this new indigenous fuel is of excellent quality and practically free from sulphur. Thus like to USA, Holland, and France we shall be able to use natural gas to reduce atmospheric pollution.

### **Influenza**

The variant of influenza A2 which emerged in Hong Kong in mid-July, 1968 and was expected to hit hard during winter 1968-69 did not do so.

Towards the end of 1968 the Department of Health and Social Security recommended widespread vaccination against influenza for those groups of persons likely to be complication victims, but, vaccines including A2 variant were not ready and fortunately the epidemic did not develop.

A warning was given by W.H.O. on 8th December, 1969 that this strain of A2 Hong Kong influenza virus had been circulating the world over the past 12 months and it was obvious that it could visit these shores.

The inability to limit the spread of influenza viruses throughout the world has encouraged Immunologists to direct much time and energy to producing vaccines to enhance individual resistance to infection. When one considers the overall loss to the Nations economy as a result of influenza and common cold absenteeism—then common sense would seem to indicate that this form of research be given top national priority. The news that the Common Cold Research Unit has developed a live influenza vaccine and that trials of this oral prophylactic are to be instituted is encouraging.

### **Rubella**

Rubella is generally a mild disease with no serious complication. If, however, it is contracted by a woman in the first 3 months of pregnancy there is a 10–15 per cent risk that the baby may be born with serious malformations, which includes blindness, deafness, heart diseases and mental and physical retardation.

During 1964 epidemics in the USA over 20,000 babies were born with defects due to rubella infections in their mothers. In Britain it has been estimated that about 1,500 women might be expected to contract rubella in an epidemic year. In a non-epidemic year, these figures might be about 500. Small rubella epidemics are likely to occur as often as every six years in minor forms, but, major epidemics at intervals of 8–10 years.

Doctors can now vaccinate against rubella. The Committee on the Safety of Drugs has cleared an injectable vaccine and Doctors have had letters telling them it is now available on the N.H.S.

The Medical Research Council is still assessing the vaccine and the Joint Committee on Vaccination is considering what would be the best age to vaccinate. The likely duration of the protection afforded by the vaccine is clearly of importance in fixing the age at which they should be given, from the main aspect of reducing foetal damage.

### **Rabies**

A widespread outbreak of rabies is threatening Europe for the first time in 50 years. Health Authorities are concerned that the disease is being spread westward across Europe, by wild animals. According to the report published by the W.H.O., the Netherlands, Ireland and Scandinavia are now the only European territories free from the disease. Human cases are rare in Europe and there is no known cure for the disease, which can lead to acute brain fever, paralysis and death. Injection of serum after a person has been bitten and before the disease takes hold (usually two months or more) generally prevents the onset of the disease. In recent years more than 26,000 people have had to receive the painful course of injections into the abdomen. Foxes have now become the main carriers of rabies, and this poses a new problem for health authorities, who find it more difficult to control



infected wild animals than domestic dogs and cats which were regarded previously as the traditional carriers. The W.H.O. and the Food and Agriculture Organisation last year began a 3 years research programme to study whether the disease could be eradicated in central Europe by control of the fox population. The W.H.O. report says that a combination of shooting and gassing can reduce their numbers by 80 per cent.

In Britain where several cases have been detected among domestic animals in recent months, the import of all dogs and cats from 12th March was banned and a Committee of Enquiry set up to examine other possible precautions.

### **Typhoid**

Last year 162 Typhoid cases were recorded in England and Wales, the highest number since 1963. Three people died of Typhoid and three of Paratyphoid fever of which there were 193 cases. Threequarters of typhoid cases and more than half of paratyphoid infections were imported, with several outbreaks amongst holidaymakers and other travellers returning from abroad. The vital importance of typhoid vaccination for people travelling abroad is insufficiently recognised.

In conclusion, I wish to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their encouragement throughout the year and my appreciation of the work of the staff of the department, including the clerical staff, who have always shown themselves willing in the care of public health.

**A. AFNAN,**  
Medical Officer of Health.

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Table 1 GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	7,096
Estimated Resident Population	11,640
Rateable Value	£533,702
Sum Produced by a Penny Rate	£2,375

Table 2 LIVE BIRTHS

	Thetford			England & Wales
	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	123	117	240	730,500
Illegitimate	9	8	17	67,042
Totals	132	125	257	797,542

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated Resident Population: Crude 22.1  
Adjusted 16.4

Table 3 STILL BIRTHS

	Thetford			England & Wales
	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	6	1	7	9,555
Illegitimate	—	—	—	1,107
Totals	6	1	7	10,662

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births: 27

Table 4 TOTAL BIRTHS

	Thetford			England & Wales
	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	129	118	247	740,055
Illegitimate	9	8	17	68,149
Totals	138	126	264	808,204

Table 5 INFANT DEATHS

(a) Infant Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 year)

	Thetford			England & Wales
	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	2	4	6	12,694
Illegitimate	—	—	—	1,703
Totals	2	4	6	14,397

Infant Mortality Rate: Total 23 (per 1,000 live births)  
Legitimate 25 (per 1,000 Legitimate births)  
Illegitimate Nil (per 1,000 Illegitimate births)

Table 5 (b) Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants during first four weeks)

	Thetford			England & Wales
	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	2	3	5	8,494
Illegitimate	—	—	—	1,109
Totals	2	3	5	9,603

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate: 19 (per 1,000 total births)

Table 5 (c) Early Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants under one week)

	Thetford			England & Wales
	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	2	3	5	7,266
Illegitimate	—	—	—	966
Totals	2	3	5	8,232

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate: 19 (per 1,000 total births)

Table 6 DEATHS (All Ages)

	Thetford			England & Wales
	Male	Female	Total	
Deaths All Ages	53	62	115	579,463

Death Rate: Crude 9.9 (per 1,000 of estimated Resident Population)  
Adjusted 12.0 (per 1,000 of estimated Resident Population)

Table 7 CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	Male	Female	Total
Bronchitis and Emphysema	1	—	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour	—	1	1
Other Causes or Perinatal Mortality	1	2	3
All Other Accidents	—	1	1
Totals	2	4	6

Table 8 DEATH ACCORDING TO AGE GROUP

	Male	Female	Total
Under 4 weeks	2	3	5
4 weeks and under 1 year	—	1	1
1 year and under 5 years	—	—	—
5 years and under 15 years	1	1	2
15 years and under 25 years	1	—	1
25 years and under 35 years	—	—	—
35 years and under 45 years	3	1	4
45 years and under 55 years	6	3	9
55 years and under 65 years	11	6	17
65 years and under 75 years	10	12	22
75 years and over	19	35	54
Totals	53	62	115

Table 9 CAUSES OF DEATH (All Ages)

	Male	Female	Total
B19(3) Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	2	4
B19(4) Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	1	1	2
B19(5) Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	1	—	1
B19(6) Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	2	1	3
B19(7) Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	1	1
B19(9) Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	—	1
B19(10) Leukæmia	1	—	1
B19(11) Other Malignant Neoplasms	6	4	10
B21 Diabetes Mellitus	—	1	1
B46(4) Other Diseases of Nervous System	1	—	1
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	—	1
B28 Ischæmic Heart Disease	17	21	38
B29 Other forms of Heart Disease	—	2	2
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease	4	7	11
B46(5) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	10	14
B32 Pneumonia	4	1	5
B33(1) Bronchitis & Emphysema	3	3	6
B33(2) Asthma	1	—	1
B46(7) Other Diseases of Digestive System	—	1	1
B46(8) Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	—	1	1
B43 Birth Injury, Difficult Labour	—	1	1
B44 Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	2	3
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	—	2
BE48 All other Accidents	1	2	3
BE50 All other external Causes	—	1	1
Totals	53	62	115

Table 10 NUMBERS OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Disease	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 +	Age Unknown	Total
Measles	11	18	25	23	25	40	3	—	—	—	—	3	148
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	2	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Infec. Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Totals	12	18	28	25	26	47	3	1	—	1	—	3	164



Table 11      TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

Year	Respiratory			Other			Grand Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1969	10	15	25	3	3	6	31
1968	10	16	26	3	2	5	31
1967	11	16	27	3	2	5	32
1966	11	15	26	3	3	6	32
1965	14	13	27	3	3	6	33

Table 12      TETANUS IMMUNISATION—Health Area 6.

	Year of Birth					Others under 16	Totals
	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962— 1965		
Primary	72	348	51	15	18	26	530
Booster	1	108	215	54	359	287	1024
Totals	73	456	266	69	377	313	1554

Table 13      DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION—Health Area 6.

	Year of Birth					Others under 16	Totals
	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962— 1965		
Primary	71	348	51	15	17	4	506
Booster	1	108	215	51	332	118	825
Totals	72	456	266	66	349	122	1331

Table 14      WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATIONS—Health Area 6.

	Year of Birth					Others under 16	Totals
	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962— 1965		
Primary	65	345	49	14	12	—	485
Booster	—	104	199	41	135	9	488
Totals	65	449	248	55	147	9	973

Table 15      ORAL POLIOMYELITIS—Health Area 6.

	Year of Birth					Others under 16	Totals
	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962— 1965		
Primary	67	351	61	14	29	4	526
Booster	—	84	126	31	367	75	683
Totals	67	435	187	45	396	79	1209

Table 16      MEASLES VACCINATION—Health Area 6.

	Year of Birth					Others under 16	Totals
	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962— 1965		
Single Dose only	1	139	97	94	128	25	484

Table 17      SMALLPOX VACCINATION—Health Area 6.

Age at Date of Vaccination	Numbers Vaccinated	Numbers Re-vaccinated
0—3 months	1	—
3—6 months	—	—
6—9 months	—	—
9—12 months	—	—
1 Year	264	1
2—4 Years	149	10
5—15 Years	48	79
Totals	462	90



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1969.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report for the year 1969 on the sanitary circumstances of the District. This report is a statutory obligation and is compiled in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular No. 1/70.

Water Supply

The Borough Council's undertaking was transferred to the South Norfolk Water Board on 1st April, 1969, but the Council acted in a caretaking capacity throughout the year and up to 15th March, 1970. The source of the public supply remained the same as in previous years being taken from a deep well at Mundford Road, from two bores on Barnham Cross Common and two boreholes at Two Mile Bottom.

With a total water storage capacity of 2,820,000 gallons there was no shortage of water during the year and the quality of the water was excellent.

Water samples taken from the public supply were submitted to the Public Analyst and the Public Health Laboratory Service for chemical and bacteriological examination and the results were highly satisfactory. Copies of the chemical analysis reports and bacteriological examinations of both raw and chlorinated water are given as an appendix.

All occupied dwellings, excepting nine houses on the extreme boundaries of the Borough, are supplied from the public mains. These nine houses obtain water from private boreholes and wells.

The following table gives details of water supplied through the public mains:—

Water supply	Number of dwellinghouses	Population supplied
(1) Direct to house	3,786	13,000
(2) By means of standpipes	5	7

Bathing Station

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government decided that the construction of the proposed indoor swimming pool must be deferred for at least a further year, owing to the severe restrictions on capital investments. In view of this fact the use of the bathing station on the River Little Ouse was continued and provided a much enjoyed amenity. Unfortunately, samples of the river water when bacteriologically examined revealed heavy pollution by faecal coli and the bathing station was therefore closed forthwith in May. Investigations were made upstream with the co-operation of the Pollution Officer of the Ouse Catchment Board and colleagues in neighbouring rural districts. Possible sources of pollution were dealt with and when further results of samples taken over a period proved the pollution level had dropped from 3,500 Bact Coli (type 1) per 100 ml. to 100, and after consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, the bathing station was re-opened on 13th June, 1969. No further trouble was experienced during the summer season.

**Sewerage and Sewage Disposal**

The arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal in the district were adequate. New foul and surface water sewers were laid to serve areas of development for both housing and industrial development areas. Work was continued on the extension of Sewage Disposal Works to cope with a 20,000 population.

There were only three occupied properties in the area without flush toilets. Those dwellings using pail closets are either affected by slum clearance or so isolated as to have no sewers available.

The position at December, 1969 was as follows:—

Number of occupied properties with pail closets	...	...	...	...	3
Number of septic tanks	...	...	...	...	36

**Conservancy**

Septic tanks were emptied, as required, by contract and as a free service to the occupiers. The number of cesspools emptied in this way was 28.

**Refuse Collection and Disposal**

The collection of refuse was carried out on a weekly basis and covered the whole district except for approximately six properties which, because of their extreme isolation from the collecting routes, cannot be accommodated. The collection was direct from the houses and, where possible, rear collections were made. The type of vehicles used were a Dennis Paxit Major II Refuse Collector of 22/30 cubic yards capacity, and a Karrier Ramillies 35 cubic yards Refuse Collection vehicle.

Provision was made for the collection of Trade Refuse at a fixed quaterly charge which varied with the number of bins collected from each premises.

The disposal of refuse was by controlled tipping at a pit outside the district.

**Housing**

(i) General.

The number of dwellings, including Council houses, occupied in the District according to the Rate Book was 3,791 and the estimated population figure was 13,000. Based on these figures the average number of persons per dwelling was 3.43.

485 new dwellings were erected during the year; 67 houses were built by private enterprise, whilst 418 houses were erected by the Council. 5 dwellings were demolished to make way for other development. Two dwellings were changed to business use.

(ii) Unfit dwellings—Action under the Housing Acts.

A summary of action taken under the Housing Acts was as follows:—

Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Families displaced	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Persons re-housed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Houses considered to be unfit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

As a result of routine inspections and visits to investigate complaints from tenants, informal action was taken to remedy some defect or other at 84 houses.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government requested Local Authorities to give information and figures concerning the slum clearance problem in their districts and the number of houses considered to be improvable, etc., etc. For this purpose a survey of 573 older type dwellings in the area was made and those not having the standard amenities were classified as follows:—

Houses considered to be unfit	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Houses forming reasonable accommodation for present occupants but not considered improvable. These houses will, unless some repairs are effected, fall into the class of dwellings becoming unfit annually	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Improvable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	141

The above figures may be increased or decreased in the light of detailed inspections and some owners may wish to bring their properties up to a good standard of repair to make them fit and improve them with grant aid.

Letters were sent to the owners of all 141 houses found to be worth improving, pointing out the availabilities of Improvement Grants and enclosing the Ministry leaflet setting out all the details of grants and the amounts paid for the installation of each standard amenity.

(iii) Improvement Grants.

The number of applications received for Standard Grants to provide dwellings with the five standard amenities was similar to 1968. Ten only applications were approved and grant aid amounting to £1,053. 15s. was paid.

Three applications for the larger Improvement Grant were approved.

(iv) Common Lodging Houses.

There were no registered common lodging houses in the district.

Infectious Diseases

Eight cases of scarlet fever and one of infective hepatitis were notified and investigated.

Verminous and Filthy Premises

12 premises found to be infested with bugs, fleas and flies were disinfested and cleansed. Bedding, clothing etc. were disinfested after two cases of scabies were found. One filthy house was disinfested and cleansed following the sudden death of the owner/occupier when it was revealed that 30 or so cats had been kept in the house.

Moveable Dwellings—Caravans

No site licences were granted during the year under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

At the Annual Survey of caravans and tents carried out in all districts of Norfolk during August week, there were found in Thetford to be 3 caravans used in connection with works of Building and Engineering Construction., 2 unauthorised tents and 1 caravan at Two Mile Bottom Common.

Persons attempting to use common lands in the districts for stationing caravans and tents were asked to move sometimes with the co-operation of the Police.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act—1963

All such premises are required by the Act to be registered with the Local Authority unless they are premises in which only close relatives of the occupier’s family are employed or they are mainly factory premises. The Act together with the many Regulations made thereunder, lays down standards for the health, safety, welfare, working conditions and facilities for persons employed in such premises. Contraventions of the legislation were informally dealt with.

The following tables have been abstracted from the Annual Return required under Section 60 by the Ministry of Labour:—

Registrations and General Inspections

Class of premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	9	54	39
Retail Shops	8	94	68
Wholesale shops, warehouses	—	7	7
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	14	14
Fuel Storage Depots	—	4	4



## Analysis of Persons employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons employed
Offices	285
Retail Shops	459
Wholesale departments, warehouses	43
Catering establishments open to the public	91
Canteens	—
Fuel storage depots	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>895</b>
Total Males	453
Total Females	442

Number of Accidents notified:—2.

### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

This Act requires every Local Authority to take such steps as may be necessary to secure as far as practicable that their district is kept free from rats and mice. In addition to dealing with complaints, surveys and treatments of areas were made including farmland, business premises, factories, sewers and all Council-owned premises. Dwellinghouses were treated free of charge, but business premises were charged on a time plus material basis. Included in the Operator's duties was the destruction of wasp's nests, moles and rabbits on Council owned land only and disinfestation work.

The following extract is taken from the Annual Report made to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food:—

Properties other than Sewers	Type of Property	
	Non-agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of Properties in the district	5,293	17
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	134	—
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	99	—
(ii) Mice	16	—
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats/mice for reasons other than notification	3,516	17
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	39	17
(ii) Mice	3	17
Sewers:—Sewers were test-baited—no infestation was found.		

### Supervision of Food Supplies and Premises

#### (a) Milk Distribution

The number of retail distributors on the register at the end of the year was twelve—ten of these sold a few bottles of milk from shops only. A small amount of milk was retailed by dairymen situated in neighbouring Authority districts.

(b) Inspection of Meat and other Foods

A considerable quantity of food was examined in the shops which resulted in the following list of meat and other foods being condemned and destroyed as unfit for human consumption.

Tomato Puree	...	...	...	...	...	2,076 x 5 kilo cans (23,230 lbs.)
Fresh Meat	...	...	...	...	...	134 lbs.
Canned Pork/Ham/Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	...	102 lbs.
Butter/Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	36 lbs.
Sprouts	...	...	...	...	...	15 lbs.
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	202 tins
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	344 tins
Various other tinned food	...	...	...	...	...	305 tins
Sausage Rusk	...	...	...	...	...	56 lbs.
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	12 lbs.
Suet	...	...	...	...	...	22 packets
Toffee Apples	...	...	...	...	...	30

Reasons for condemnation were blown, damaged, punctured, rusting and leaking seams in cans and tins; rancid butter, decomposition, moulds and contamination.

Frozen Foods condemned after breakdown of Refrigerator Plant:—

Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	160 lbs.
Beefburgers	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Rissoles	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Beef/Pork Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	438 lbs.
Black Puddings	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Meat Pies	...	...	...	...	...	...	497
Tender Cure Hams	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ham Rolls	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Puff Pastry	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 packets
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	14 packets
Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	74 cartons
Yoghurt	...	...	...	...	...	...	31 cartons
Mousse	...	...	...	...	...	...	313 packets
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	31 packets
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	99 packets

(c) Meat Inspection

The use of one private slaughterhouse was continued during 1969. One butcher only killed at this establishment and due to lack of staff and time his throughput was reduced and a considerable amount of his meat was bought off the hook from outside the district.

To maintain 100% post mortem inspection service 91 visits were made to the slaughterhouse, which might appear to be a large number of visits compared with the number of animals slaughtered, but was necessary due to the frequency of slaughtering in small quantities.

The general quality of the animals slaughtered was good and the incidence of disease little different from 1968. Condemnation was mostly confined to offals. Thorough examination of every carcass was made but no cases of cysticercous Bovis or lesions of tuberculosis were found amongst any animals slaughtered. The reasons for condemnation were:— abscesses, flukes, cirrhosis, milk spot and congestion.

The following table gives details of animals killed, together with information regarding numbers and percentages affected by disease:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	89 (90)	-	-	-	15 (69)	-
Number inspected	89 (90)	-	-	-	15 (69)	-
All Diseases except Tubercu- losis and Cysticerchi Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	22 (13)	-	-	-	3 (4)	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerchi	24.7% (14.4%)	-	-	-	20.0% (5.8%)	-
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Figures in brackets relate to 1968

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerchi		Tuberculosis Only	
Offal	Meat	Offal	Meat
243 lbs (208 lbs)	6 lbs (15 lbs)	-	-

Figures in brackets relate to 1968

(d) Five licences were issued to suitable persons authorising them to slaughter animals by approved methods of stunning. None authorised the holder to slaughter horses.

(e) Food Premises

Routine inspections were made at all the food premises in the district and where necessary advice was given and, in some cases, informal notices served requesting repairs or alterations to keep premises up to the standards required by the Hygiene Regulations.



Since the housing estates have reached sizeable proportions under the G.L.C. expansion scheme a large number of mobile shops selling fish and chips, wet fish, ice-cream, vegetables, fruit and confectionery etc. have been operating in the area. Inspection of these vehicles revealed contraventions of the Hygiene Regulations which were dealt with by informal action.

The following complaints concerning food purchased from shops in the district were investigated and dealt with:—

- Moulds in cake
- A moth found in flour
- A toffee apple within which the apple was bruised — Stock in shop concerned was condemned
- Runner bean seeds in bottle of school milk — Analyst’s opinion that child had placed beans in bottle
- Small piece of string in stringless sausages —, Laboratory identified thread used in manufacture which adhered to sausage when plastic skin was removed
- Alleged mould in mousse — Proved to be ice
- Small deposit in bottle of beer — Proved to be hops
- Moulds in cheese

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 was as follows:—

- 1. For the purpose of “the preparation of fish by any process of cooking, for sale for human consumption” ..... 2
- 2. For the purpose of “the sale of Ice - Cream” .....23
- 3. For the purpose of “the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled, or preserved food intended for sale for human consumption including the preparation of meat by any process of cooking” ..... 10

The number of food premises in the area by type of business is as follows (Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960):—

Type of Premises	Number	Complying with Regulation 16	To which Reg. 19 applies	Complying with Reg. 19
Cafes/Restaurants	18	18	18	18
Greengrocers/Grocers	28	28	28	28
Confectionery, Cakes, etc.	17	17	17	17
Public Houses	18	18	18	18
Licenced Clubs	4	4	4	4
Fish Shops	5	5	5	5
Bakehouses	2	2	2	2
General Stores	10	10	10	10
Butchers Shops	10	10	10	10
Food Factories	3	3	3	3
Factory Canteens	20	20	20	20
School Kitchens	8	8	8	8
Cold Storage Depot	1	1	—	—
Food Warehouses	5	5	—	—

(f) Ice-Cream

There were 23 premises registered in accordance with Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of Ice-cream. In all cases, the Ice-cream was sold as wrapped. A number of Ice-cream vans visit the town every day selling soft Ice-cream. Samples were submitted for bacteriological examination – 14 were returned as Grade I and 1 as Grade II.

(g) The Meat (Staining and Sterilization) Regulations, 1960.

The Cold Store received throughout the year imported consignments of beef and sheep lungs, spleens, tongue roots, trimmings and horse, kangaroo meat and whalemeat which was unfit for human consumption, and stored it pending delivery to a Pet Foods factory for sterilization and processing.

Under the above Regulations, notification was received from the Port Health Authority prior to delivery from the docks and supervision was maintained on the unloading, delivery, marking, storage and release at the Cold Store. Approximately 4,500 tons were notified by Port Authorities and received in Thetford.

(h) Imported Food Regulations, 1968

Consignments of imported edible frozen beef, chicken frames, scampi etc. were taken into the Cold Store from various docks. Notifications were received from Port Health Authorities giving details of such commodities when they were released from the docks in sealed containers without prior inspection. Representative samples were taken from each consignment and forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. When satisfactory results were obtained the goods were released for human consumption.

Two types of salmonellæ were isolated in a 20 tons consignment of frozen boneless beef from Holland, which was eventually re-exported back to back to Holland under the supervision of Ministry Officials, from the time it left Thetford until it was out of the Country.

**FACTORIES ACT, 1961**

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including the inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	2	2*	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	114	93*	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (Excluding out-workers premises)	36	48*	9	-
Total	152	143*	9	-

\*The figures given here are much less than the actual number of visits because those factories, which are also food premises, received many visits during the year, although they were not made primarily under the Factories Act. Minor infringements were dealt with informally.

**FACTORIES ACT**  
**Part 1 of the Act (continued)**

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H. M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	8	8	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) For separate sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	11	11	-	-	-

Part VIII of the Act  
**Outwork**  
(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel making etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cleaning and washing	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>



## **Clean Air Acts**

As required by Section 3 of the act applications for "Prior Approval" were submitted to the local authority where persons wished to instal or alter boiler/furnace plant. Eight such applications were received and the proposed installations were vetted to ensure that they would operate efficiently without causing a nuisance. The height of the chimney stacks necessary to properly disperse the products of combustion were calculated and agreed with the firms concerned.

The emission of smoke, grit, ash and sawdust from various plant in use at a large factory caused a great deal of nuisance to surrounding factories on the No. 1 Industrial Estate. Remedial measures included overhaul of the wood burning furnace, installation of special geared conveyors to slow feed dust to the furnace, grit arresters were made to work efficiently and the boiler stack was extended from 75 to 110 feet in height to overcome downwash of the plume. Dust handling equipment was erected and the system of pneumatic conveyors of dust was changed to mechanical conveying. This was expensive operation but smoke from the boiler plant was reduced to acceptable levels and by the end of the year the general emission of sawdust from the factory was greatly reduced.

Four other smoke nuisances were dealt with successfully by informal action.

## **Other Matters**

### **(i) Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare) Provisions Act, 1956.**

Visits of inspections were made at farms to ensure that employees were provided with satisfactory sanitary accommodation. In general, the farms are small and employees are able to use the accommodation at the farm buildings.

### **(ii) Shop Acts 1950**

Routine inspections have been made to ensure that shops comply with the legislation relating to suitable ventilation, lighting, seating, welfare, sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, etc.

The Local Authority being a Borough Council are also responsible for the Shop Hours of Closing provisions and your Public Health Inspector is the appointed Shops Act Inspector for this purpose. This entails visits out of normal working hours, during the evening up to 10 pm and also Sunday surveys of the area.

### **(iii) Pet Animals Act 1951**

One licence was granted under this Act during the year.

### **(iv) Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964**

Nine such dealers were registered under the Act and visits were made to all premises for inspection and to ascertain that records were kept as required by legislation and to check stock held against the recorded details.

## **Noise Abatement Act, 1960**

48 people signed a petition complaining about a "banging on sheet metal" noise during the night shift worked at a factory on the Industrial Estate. The management, when approached, agreed not to use the particular machinery causing the noise at night.

Five other noise nuisances were abated by informal action during the year — three arose from fans; one concerned noise from heavy tractors used during night shift work at a factory (silencers were fitted and their use restricted to day shift work); the fifth was caused by pneumatic drills which, when muffled, were bearable.

In conclusion, I would like to express appreciation and thanks to Members of the Council for their continued support and consideration and to the Medical Officer and all other members of the staff for their assistance and co-operation.

**R. C. R. Robinson,**  
Public Health Inspector.

LINCOLNE SUTTON AND WOOD LTD.

Cert. No. V. 3179  
Lab. No. 7853/W

Clarence House  
6· Clarence Road  
NORWICH  
  
Telephone 24555

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample received 6th May, 1969 from Thetford Borough Council.  
Marked Bore, Barnham Cross Headworks TBC/69/1C

Appearance when received	clear.		
Nature of Deposit	nil.		
Colour	nil.	Odour	nil.
Reaction faintly alkaline. pH 7.45		Taste	satisfactory

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN  
PARTS PER MILLION

Ammoniacal nitrogen	negligible trace	Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	
Albuminoid nitrogen	negligible trace	Total	240
Nitrate nitrogen	3.5	Carbonate (temporary)	185
Nitrite nitrogen	nil.	Non-carbonate (permanent)	55
Chloride as Cl.	16	Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	185
Permanganate Value (4 hr.)	0.18	Free carbon dioxide	55
		Total solids (at 180° C.)	290
		Iron (total)	0.05
Fluoride	0.20	Metals in solution	Nil.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of colonies developing per ml. in 48 hours at 37° C	1
Presumptive coliform organisms—Probable Number per 100 ml.	Nil.
E. Coli Type 1 ("fæcal")—Probable Number per 100 ml.	Nil.

OPINION

This water is of very good organic and bacteriological quality. The total hardness is 30 p.p.m. higher than that of the previous sample (our Cert. U.1117) but in other respects the analysis is almost unchanged. In our opinion this water is suitable for drinking and general purposes.

for Lincolne Sutton and Wood Ltd.  
Signed: Eric C. Wood.

LINCOLNE SUTTON AND WOOD LTD.

Cert. No. V. 3180  
Lan. No. 7854/W

Clarence House  
6 Clarence Road  
NORWICH

Telephone 24555

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample received 6th May, 1969 from Thetford Borough Council.

Marked Bore — Mundford Road Headworks — TBC/69/2C.

Appearance when received	clear.		
Nature of Deposit	nil.		
Colour	nil.	Odour	nil
Reaction faintly alkaline pH 7.4		Taste	satisfactory

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN  
PARTS PER MILLION

Ammoniacal nitrogen	negligible trace	Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	
Albuminoid nitrogen	negligible trace	Total	285
Nitrate nitrogen	8.5	Carbonate (temporary)	215
Nitrite nitrogen	nil	Non-Carbonate (permanent)	70
Chloride as Cl.	22	Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	215
Permanganate Value (4 hr.)	0.22	Free carbon dioxide	14
Fluoride	0.10	Total solids (at 180° C.)	365
		Iron (total)	0.06
		Metals in solution	nil.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of colonies developing per ml. 48 hours at 37° C	1
Presumptive coliform organisms—Proble Number per 100 ml.	Nil.
E. Coli Type 1 ("fæcal")—Probable Number per 100 ml.	Nil.

OPINION

The organic quality of this water is very good and its bacteriological condition is excellent. The total hardness is 30 p.p.m. higher than that of the previous sample (our Cert. U.1118) but in other respects the analysis is almost unchanged. In our opinion this water is suitable for drinking and general purposes.

for Lincolne Sutton and Wood Ltd.  
Signed: Eric C. Wood.



LINCOLNE SUTTON AND WOOD LTD.

Cert. No. V. 3181  
Lab. No. 7855/W

Clarence House  
6 Clarence Road  
NORWICH  
  
Telephone 24555

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample received 6th May, 1969 from Thetford Borough Council  
Marked Bore — Two Mile Bottom Headworks — TBC/69/3C

Appearance when received	clear		
Nature of Deposit	nil		
Colour	nil	Odour	nil
Reaction faintly alkaline pH 7.65		Taste	satisfactory

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN  
PARTS PER MILLION

Ammoniacal nitrogen	negligible trace	Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	
Albuminoid nitrogen	negligible trace	Total	240
Nitrate nitrogen	6.5	Carbonate (temporary)	195
Nitrite nitrogen	nil	Non-carbonate (permanent)	45
Chloride as Cl.	16	Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	195
Permanganate Value (4 hr.)	0.10	Free carbon dioxide	8
		Total solids (at 180° C.)	300
		Iron (total)	0.04
Fluoride	nil	Metals in solution	nil.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of colonies developing per ml. in 48 hours at 37° C	nil.
Presumptive coliform organisms—Probable Number per 100 ml.	nil.
E. Coli Type 1 ("fæcal")—Probable Number per 100 ml.	nil.

OPINION

The organic and bacteriological condition of this water is very satisfactory. There are only minor differences without significance between this analysis and that of the sample submitted in June 1968 (our Cert. U.1116). In our opinion this water is suitable for drinking and general purposes.

for Lincolne Sutton and Wood Ltd.  
Signed: Eric C. Wood.

LINCOLNE SUTTON AND WOOD LTD.

Clarence House,  
6 Clarence Road  
NORWICH

Cert. No. W. 3128  
Lab. No. 9380/W

Telephone 24555

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample received 10th December, 1969 from Thetford Borough Council  
Marked Two Mile Bottom Headworks – TBC/69/6C & 19B

Appearance when received clear

Nature of Deposit                    nil

Colour                                    nil

Odour                                    nil

Reaction faintly alkaline pH 7.45

Taste                                    satisfactory

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN  
PARTS PER MILLION

Ammoniacal nitrogen negligible trace	Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	
Albuminoid nitrogen            0.02	Total	225
Nitrate nitrogen                7	Carbonate (temporary)	190
Nitrite nitrogen                nil	Non-carbonate (permanent)	35
Chloride as Cl.                16	Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	190
Permanganate Value (4 hr.) 0.13	Free carbon dioxide	12
	Total solids (at 180° C.)	300
	Iron (total)	0.05
Fluoride                        0.05	Metals in solution	nil

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of colonies developing per ml. in 48 hours at 37° C	nil
Presumptive coliform organisms—Probable Number per 100 ml.	nil
E. Coli Type I ("fæcal")—Probable Number per 100 ml.	nil

OPINION

The organic quality of this water is very good and its bacteriological condition is excellent. The chemical analysis differs only in minor details from that of the previous sample (see our Cert. V. 3181). In our opinion this water is suitable for drinking and general purposes.

for Lincolne Sutton and Wood Ltd.  
Signed: Eric C. Wood.

LINCOLNE SUTTON AND WOOD LTD.

Clarence House  
6 Clarence Road  
NORWICH

Cert. No. W. 3129  
Lab. No. 9381/W

Telephone 24555

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample received 10th December, 1969 from Thetford Borough Council.  
Marked Mundford Road Headworks — TBC/69/5C & 18B

Appearance when received	clear		
Nature of Deposit	nil		
Colour	nil	Odour	nil
Reaction Neutral pH 7.3		Taste	satisfactory

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN  
PARTS PER MILLION

Ammoniacal nitrogen	0.03	Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.01	Total	255
Nitrate nitrogen	7.5	Carbonate (temporary)	200
Nitrite nitrogen	nil	Non-carbonate (permanent)	55
Chloride as Cl.	20	Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	200
Permanganate Value (4 hr.)	0.13	Free carbon dioxide	12
		Total solids (at 180° C.)	305
		Iron (total)	0.07
Fluoride	0.1	Metals in solution	nil

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of colonies developing per ml. in 48 hours at 37° C	Nil
Presumptive coliform organisms—Probable Number per 100 ml	Nil
E. Coli Type 1 ("fæcal")—Probable Number per 100 ml	Nil

OPINION

The organic quality of this water is very good and its bacteriological condition is excellent. As compared with the previous sample (our Cert. V. 3180) the total hardness is 30 p.p.m. lower and the analysis is closer to that of the sample taken in June 1968 (our Cert. U. 1118). In our opinion this water is suitable for drinking and general purposes.

for Lincolne Sutton and Wood Ltd.  
Signed: Eric C. Wood.

LINCOLNE SUTTON AND WOOD LTD.

Cert. No. W. 3130  
Lab. No. 9382/W

Clarence House  
6 Clarence Road  
NORWICH  
Telephone 24555

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample received 10th December, 1969 from Thetford Borough Council.  
Marked Barnham Cross Headworks — TBC/69/4C & 17B

Appearance when received	clear		
Nature of Deposit	nil		
Colour	nil	Odour	Nil
reaction faintly alkaline pH 7.4		Taste	satisfactory

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN  
PARTS PER MILLION

Ammoniacal nitrogen	0.01	Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.01	Total	230
Nitrate nitrogen	4	Carbonate (temporary)	175
Nitrite nitrogen practically nil		Non-carbonate (permanent)	55
Chloride as Cl.	14	Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	175
Permanganate Value (4 hr.) 0.13		Free carbon dioxide	12
		Total solids (at 180° C.)	355
		Iron (total)	0.05
Fluoride	0.05	Metals in solution	nil

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of colonies developing per ml. in 48 hours at 37° C	Nil
Presumptive coliform organisms—Probable Number per 100 ml.	Nil
E. Coli Type 1 ("faecal")—Probable Number per 100 ml.	Nil

OPINION

This water is of excellent bacteriological and organic quality. There are only insignificant differences between this analysis and the last (our Cert. V. 3179). In our opinion this water is suitable for drinking and general purposes.

for Lincoln Sutton and Wood Ltd.  
Signed: Eric C. Wood

# BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER

	Probable numbers per 100 ml.	
Source	Coliform bacilli	Bact. coli (type 1 )
Caxton Way	0	0
London Road	0	0
Magdalen Street	0	0
Fisher Way	0	0
Beatty Close	0	0
Barnham Cross Headworks (Raw Water)	1	0
Mundford Road Headworks (Raw Water)	1	0
Two Mile Bottom Headworks (Raw Water)	0	0
St. Albans Way	9	0
St. Albans Way (Check sample)	0	0
Canons Walk	0	0
Brandon Road	0	0
Barnham Cross Headworks (Raw Water)	0	0
Mundford Road Headworks (Raw Water)	0	0
Two Mile Bottom Headworks (Raw Water)	0	0











